Protest by Export Promotion Council for handicrafts over hike in bank service charges

990. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Export Promotion Council for handicrafts has strongly protested against the recent increase in bank service charges announced by the public sector banks;

(b) if so, what was the rise in bank service charges announced; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) Public sector banks have revised their service charges with effect from 1-7-90 taking into account the cost of inputs in relation to the service rendered by them. The charges have been increased in respect of certain services such as processing of applications for advances exceeding Rs. 2 lakhs, remittances of drafts/Mail Transfers/Telegraphic Transfers beyond Rs. 2500/-, MICR cheque books (excluding savings bank accounts of individuals), issue of duplicate statements of accounts and duplicate pass books, inland guarantees, stop payment instructions, standing instructions, etc. Some representations have been received by Government against the above increase. Since the revisions are related to cost inputs of banks in relation to their services, no immediate re-examination is contemplated.

Assocham's dmeand for uniformity on leives & taxes on different times

991. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ASSOCHAM, while welcoming Government's notification making it obligatory to mark the maximum retail prices including sales tax and other taxes on all packed items, had demanded uniformity in levies and taxes, so as to ensure uniform rates of different items throughout the country; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Implications of the proposal made by ASSOCHAM are being studied in consultation with the Collectors of Central Excise, It will take time.

Closure of barnches of Nationalised banks operating in J & K State

992. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the nationalised banks in Jammu and Kashmir except Jammu and Kashmir Bank are virtually closed as the staff members, except class IV employees who are Kashmiris, have migrated from the Valley;

(b) if so, what arrangements Government have made for the customers who maintain accounts in these banks; and

(c) what measures have been taken by Government for the safety and security of these bank employees, who were forced to leave their duties, so that they return back to join their duties?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) No, Sir. In the State of Jammu & Kashmir, most of the branches of public sector banks are functioning except some branches in the Kashmir Valley. In the Kashmir Valley, 52 branches of public sector banks were functioning in a limited manner during the week ended on 4.8.90, as reported by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

(b) RBI has issued instructions to Bank to ensure that their branches in

J & K State function to the maximum possible extent and for expeditious disposal of applications for transfer of accounts from the Valley, if so desired by the customers.

(c) Government have issued instructions to all commercial banks to give compensatory facilities like special compensatory allowance and pool accomodation to the staff with adequate security.

Decline in share of Kerala in income tax, excise duty etc.

993. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the percentage share of Kerala in respect of income-tax, excise duty and additional excise duty came down perceptibly as a result of the norms adopted by the Ninth Finance Commission;

(b) whether Government propose to take steps to rectify this position; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) As compared to the Eighth Finance Commission's award, the share of Kerala in respect of income tax, duty & additional excise duty has come down under the award of Ninth Finance Commission as shown below:

	Percentage share	
	Eighth Finance Commission	Ninth Finance Commission
Income Tax .	3.760	3.729
Excise Duty .	3.800	3.087
Additional Excise Duty .	3.963	3.723

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission (Second Report) for the five years period commencing from 1st of April, 1990 have already been accepted by the Government.

Disposal of the Appeal Against the balance demand from Chairman Express Group of Newspapers

994. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2442 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 16th March, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the appeal against the balance demand of Rs. 26,82,164 from the Chairman, Indian Express Group of Newspapers has been disposed of;

(b) if so, whether the recovery has since been made; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for such undue delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) The demand of Rs. 26,82,164 referred to in the question was not due from the Chairman, Indian Express Group of Newspapers but was due from Indian Express Newspapers (Bombay) Pvt Ltd. Appeals against this demand have been disposed of by the Commissioner (Appeals). After disposal of appeals, this demand has been reduced to Rs. 2,93,914.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The appeals were decided on 13.6.1990. After receipt of the appellate orders, the Assessing Officer has recently served revised demand notices on the assessee.

Misuse of loans given by banks to the Chairman, Express Group

995. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1012 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 2nd March, 1989 and state:

(a) whether the appeal against the disallowance of certain losses shown by the Chairman, Indian Express